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REASONS FOR ENCOURAGING JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

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Whether the United States should any longer encourage any immigration is doubtful. That the United States should treat all immigration alike is far less doubtful, since it implies a policy that makes for international peace and our own national dignity. Agitators, themselves of alien birth, originated opposition to Asiatics in California prior to 1860. In the legislative session of 1861 a committee that had been previously appointed to that duty, reported upon an exhaustive investigation of the effect here of the presence of Chinese. After a statistical statement and an array of economic facts, the committee said:

"We are confident that these facts will deeply impress you and our constituents, and it will be well to ponder them before any action shall be proposed that will have a tendency to disturb so important an interest, and drive from our state a class of foreigners so peaceful, industrious, and useful. Your committee trust that no more legislation will be had calculated to degrade the Chinese in our state."

That report settled the question for many years, until it became the subject of agitation on the "sand lot" late in the seventies. When that report was made the population of California was 379,994, of which 50,000 were Chinese, the only Asiatics then here. Carrying out the proportions of our present population we should have 300,000 Asiatics, but we have only 55,904 Chinese and Japanese combined.

Since the agitators have directed their efforts against the Japanese almost exclusively, it is noted that favor for the Chinese has risen. All of the arguments formerly made against them are now directed against the Japanese. It is of historical interest that these arguments are all taken bodily from the campaign of persecution of the Jews in continental Europe from the Middle Ages down

to modern times, when civilization and enlightenment effected the emancipation of that mistreated race.

As for immigration in general, we have acquired the habit of saying that none should be admitted with which we cannot assimilate. This has put upon our Anglo-Saxon blood the mighty task of assimilating the alien peoples of Southern and Southeastern Europe, and we are recently learning that assimilation is a bilateral process, and that the vast influx of those peoples who are in semi-racial accord with us, is diluting our original stock and that instead of assimilating we are being assimilated. Economic pressure has expelled European immigrants from their native soil, and they have resorted here in such numbers as to overcome our prepotency and even threaten changes in our institutions.

In view of this it is well to consider whether the charge that the Japanese are non-assimilable, and therefore should be excluded, has any merit. The Japanese are, like us, a temperate zone race, with a form of civilization high in its essentials and much older than our own. It is doubtful whether the term "coolie" in its usual sense applies to them. The common people of Japan, as we know them here, more nearly resemble the Irish peasantry than the East Indian coolie. They are very industrious, frugal, temperate and orderly, with quick wit and intellectual alertness. By the standards established by our immigration laws and the regulations for their enforcement, the Japanese are desirable immigrants, judged by the amount of money they bring with them, the percentage that seek aid in public hospitals and eleemosynary institutions, and their percentage of illiteracy. Upon these points the official immigration records give the following testimony:

MONEY PER CAPITA

Japanese	\$31.09	Polish	\$11.51
South Italians	10.96	Scandinavian	26.52
Irish	26.42	Slovak	13.75
Hebrew	15.36	Magyar	14.03

PER CENT RECEIVING PUBLIC AID

Japanese .....	.007	Greek .....	.81
South Italian .....	.73	German .....	.99
Irish .....	.52	Polish	1.04
Hebrew	1.62	Scandinavian .....	.3

PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERATES

Japanese	22.	Polish	36.
South Italian	54.	Hebrew	23.
Greek	24.	Russian	26.
Portuguese	68.	Lithuanian	54.

Labor and Wages

The Southern European immigration inveterately congests in our cities. The Japanese take kindly to rural life and productive farm labor. In California the Latin races are numerous in the coast cities. They skip the great valley, which is the seat of varied agricultural and horticultural production, and reappear in the Sierra foothills and mountains, around the mining towns and lumber camps.

In the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and in the Great Valley of California, is the demand for rural labor which the Chinese formerly supplied, and, as their number decreases under exclusion, the demand is now met by the Japanese. The production of raisins, sugar beets, asparagus, onions, and other low growing field crops, and the fruit harvest, call for reliable labor, resistant to climatic conditions and able to sustain the stooping posture in which much of this work must be performed. So far American labor has not proved efficient or reliable in these occupations, and European labor is but little more so. But the short-backed, short-legged Asiatics have proved reliable in all this squat work which must be performed in a temperature of 100 to 110 degrees. They execute the needful primary processes in these forms of production, and thereby furnish commerce with merchandise which in its transmutation, transportation and exchange provides for American labor occupation at its own high wages, and for commerce its profit. This fact is recognized by the fruit growers of California, who, in their annual convention in 1907, by unanimous vote, demanded such modification of the Chinese exclusion law and of the anti-Japanese policy as would permit a certain immigration of both races.

A critical examination of the subject in respect to its industrial, economic and social phases, supports the legislative report of 1861, that the presence of Eastern Asiatics here is of industrial, economic and social benefit to the state. Japanese farm laborers have notable characteristics, of which their personal cleanliness is especially to be noted. They require facilities for a hot bath, and at the close of

a day's labor they bathe and change to dry clothing before eating dinner.

Japanese farm labor by the month exacts \$1.50 per day wages. The largest farmer and largest employer of farm labor in California is Mr. George Shima, a Japanese, who pays an annual rental of \$80,000 for lands farmed on the leveed islands in the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. In his vast operations he employs American, Japanese, Chinese and European labor, getting the best results by such co-ordination of labor. His American and European laborers are paid the going wage and are employed in the work that precedes and follows the primary processes of tillage performed by Japanese. His Japanese labor is paid by the year. His common laborers get \$250 per annum and "found" in their work clothing, diet and dormitory. His Japanese foremen are paid \$350 and found. In good years he pays to laborers and foremen a bonus in the nature of profit sharing. While he has brought about this co-ordination of labor, the system has now been adopted by American employers. The sugar beet fields are plowed, prepared and planted by American labor at high wages, using the best improved agricultural machinery. When the beets grow they must be thinned by hand and weeded for a space on each side of the row. This, being squat labor, is performed by Japanese and by Chinese when they can be had. The American labor reappears in cultivating the crop, riding, spring seated, on improved implements. At the harvest the Japanese reappear, and from that time on the crop furnishes highly paid work to American labor until it reaches the consumer.

Investors in the beet sugar business here insist that as the squat part of the work is performed when the temperature is high, it is so repugnant to American labor that Japanese are a necessity, and that by this co-ordination of labor only is it possible to develop this valuable resource of the state.

The Japanese standard of living in their own country of course cannot escape the economic law, but is fixed by the wages of labor. To this law all countries are subject. Up to the beginning of the Irish exodus to the United States, laborers' wages in Ireland were six cents per day, sometimes rising to eight cents. But the standard of living, long fixed by low wages, rose when the Irish came in contact with better conditions here. The same is true of the Japan-

ese. They live well. The laborers when at leisure dress well, in our costume. When one by two or three years' work has accumulated from \$500 to \$750, he is enterprising, and usually sees some overlooked resource in which he invests his savings and labor and advances rapidly. In all these respects he differs not at all from the immigrants from other low wage countries, except in his superior enterprise and greater adaptability. As farmers the Japanese excel. The lessons learned at home are applied here, and the land is made to produce crops, not weeds. No slipshod methods are followed, and Americans may beneficially apply the lesson they may learn of Japanese farmers.

Education

A very considerable percentage of Japanese laborers are students, eager to learn. When they acquire English and read it, their leisure is employed in reading our works on history, biography and science. This tendency is not observed in other immigrants. They laboriously work their way through our public school grades and universities by farm labor or domestic service. Of their qualities as students the following opinion is given by one of the oldest public school principals in San Francisco:

(1) I have had ample opportunities, in over twenty years' experience with Japanese students, to know whereof I speak, in all its bearings.

(2) No considerable part of these students are adults. Had the adult pupils ever reached as large a proportion as twenty per cent there would, years ago, have been protests from teachers and principals, and Japanese adults could and would have been excluded from elementary day schools, just as are other adults, without friction or objection.

(3) Japanese students do not crowd white children out of the schools. The San Francisco schools are not overcrowded. They never have been overcrowded, during the past twenty years, except in a few spots, and that for causes entirely outside this matter.

(4) The statement that the influence of the Japanese, in our schools, has had a tendency towards immorality, is false, and absolutely without foundation. From all I have ever heard in conference with other school men, as well as from my own continuous and careful observation, there has never been the slightest cause for a shadow of suspicion affecting the conduct of one of these Japanese pupils. On the contrary, I have found that they have furnished examples of industry, patience, unobtrusiveness, obedience, and honesty in their work, which have greatly helped many efficient teachers to create the proper moral atmosphere in their class rooms.

(5) Japanese and American children have been on good terms in my class rooms, and in others concerning which I am informed. They work

side by side without interference or friction, and often some Japanese student would be a great favorite among his American classmates.

(6) In all my years of experience, there has never come to me, orally or in writing, from the parents, whose children have attended my school, one hint of complaint or dissatisfaction concerning the instruction of their children in the same school, or the same rooms with Japanese. Nor has there ever been complaint or protest from teachers in regard to this co-education.

International Ethics

To include Japanese in the Chinese exclusion laws will raise grave international issues. Japan has adopted western civilization, and her civil institutions are tempered by the parliamentary system. Her jurisprudence is based on the common law and conforms to the English standard which is the foundation of ours. In science she has impressed the world by the results of original investigation. The world now has the means of escape from bubonic plague, because the Japanese bacteriologist, Kittesato, discovered the plague germ, revealed its biological progress and the means of its transmission from rodent to man. Another Japanese bacteriologist isolated the dysentery microbe and caused a reduction of fifty per cent in the mortality from that scourge of armies. The world cannot set the seal of inferiority upon a nation that has furnished such men. Nor can it afford to judge Japanese by the classes that are lowest in the scale.

Japanese friendship for America is of undoubted sincerity. When San Francisco was destroyed by earthquake and fire, and her people were in extremity, lacking food and shelter, Japan sent for their relief \$245,000, the only foreign nation that came to their rescue, though France has recently sent a medal.

Japanese business men and financiers resident here are in every way acceptable. Their home life is characterized by refinement and good taste. Their wives are ladies, many of them college graduates, who understand and observe the social conventions. The presence of this commercial and financial class is necessary to our trade with Japan. It is the destiny of that country to become to Asia what England is to the western world and to draw upon exports from the United States to an equal degree. Every consideration seems to counsel a policy of peace, good will and equality of treatment toward Japan. In the case of the Japanese, there is no room for race prejudice, but every inducement to a policy of justice and amity.